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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/780,032	02/17/2004	John P. Nibarger	2003-120-TAP	9274

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Timothy R. Schulte
Storage Technology Corporation
One Storage Tek Drive
Louisville, CO 80028-4309

EXAMINER	
RIVERA, WILLIAM ARAUZ	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3654	

DATE MAILED: 03/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/780,032	NIBARGER, JOHN P.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	William A Rivera	3654	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-7 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Collins (U.S. Patent No. 4,607,808).

With respect to Claims 1-7 and 9-10, Collins, Figures 3 and 4, teaches a tape guide roller the tape guide roller comprising: a tape guide surface, wherein at least one portion of the tape guide surface is curved and wherein at least another portion of the tape guide surface has substantially zero curvature; at least one hard stop portion on at least one end of the tape guide surface; wherein the at least one hard stop at an elevation higher than the tape guide surface; wherein the tape guide surface has a surface with cylindrical symmetry; the cylindrical symmetry of the tape guide surface has a curvature defined by a function and wherein the function is one of a linear function and a nonlinear function; wherein the function is one of an exponential, brachistochrone, quadratic polynomial, cubic polynomial, or higher order polynomial; wherein the tape guide surface provides a restoring force to a tape media to move the tape media to an optimal position; wherein the tape guide surface has a negative curvature; wherein the tape guide roller is one of flanged, unflanged, spinning, stationary, contoured or not contoured.

Claims 1-8 and 10-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cope et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,320,727).

With respect to Claims 1-8 and 10, Cope et al, Figures 3 and 4, teach a tape guide roller the tape guide roller comprising: a tape guide surface, wherein at least one portion of the tape guide surface is curved and wherein at least another portion of the tape guide surface has substantially zero curvature; at least one hard stop portion on at least one end of the tape guide surface; wherein the at least one hard stop at an elevation higher than the tape guide surface; wherein the tape guide surface has a surface with cylindrical symmetry; the cylindrical symmetry of the tape guide surface has a curvature defined by a function and wherein the function is one of a linear function and a nonlinear function; wherein the function is one of an exponential, brachistochrone, quadratic polynomial, cubic polynomial, or higher order polynomial; wherein the tape guide surface provides a restoring force to a tape media to move the tape media to an optimal position; wherein the tape guide surface has a positive curvature; wherein the tape guide roller is one of flanged, unflanged, spinning, stationary, contoured or not contoured.

With respect to Claim 11-20, Cope et al, Figures 3 and 4, teach a tape feeding mechanism comprising at least one tape reel 118, a read/write head 120; a tape guide roller 102,104,106,108 the tape guide roller comprising: a tape guide surface, wherein at least one portion of the tape guide surface is curved 305 and wherein at least another portion of the tape guide surface has substantially zero curvature 301; at least one hard stop 302 portion on at least one end of the tape guide surface; wherein the at least one hard stop at an elevation higher than the tape guide surface; wherein the tape guide surface has a surface with cylindrical symmetry; the cylindrical symmetry of the tape guide surface has a curvature defined by a function and wherein the function is one of a linear function and a nonlinear function; wherein the function is one of an exponential, brachistochrone, quadratic polynomial, cubic polynomial, or higher order

polynomial; wherein the tape guide surface provides a restoring force to a tape media to move the tape media to an optimal position; wherein the tape guide surface has a positive curvature; wherein the tape guide roller is one of flanged, unflanged, spinning, stationary, contoured or not contoured.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William A Rivera whose telephone number is 703-308-2684. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday - 7:30 to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathy Matecki can be reached on 703-308-2688. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

William A. Rivera

WILLIAM A. RIVERA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

March 10, 2005